

Remarks

Claims 1-9 have been pending in the application, of which all of the claims have been rejected. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections and objections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein. No new matter was added, and the amendments are supported by the originally submitted specification, drawings and claims.

Claims 1-6 and 8 were objected to because of informalities. Claim 1, line 8 is amended to change “then” to “than”. Claim 4 is amended to include a period at the end of the claim. Claim 8 is amended to depend from claim 7.

Claim 3 is cancelled. The subject matter originally in claim 3 is now included in independent claim 1. No new matter was added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over De La Cruz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,616,482) in view of Saito et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,428,364). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

De La Cruz et al. relates to connectors and more specifically discloses connectors for high frequency cables. In De La Cruz et al., an insulator holds the wires in place via an interference fit so that the cable can be further assembled. Unlike the claimed invention, De La Cruz et al. does not disclose that a base portion of a spacer engages rings on the contacts to hold the contacts in a secure position during further assembly of the cable connection, as now recited in claim 1. This is a clear difference from the claimed invention. Saito et al. also discloses that the electric wires of the cable are restricted by the insulator body of a battery connection plate, but do not disclose or suggest rings on contacts to secure the contacts in position.

Hence, combining the invention disclosed in De La Cruz et al. with the invention disclosed in Saito et al. will not remedy the deficiencies of either patent and thus render the claimed invention obvious. Neither the referenced patents alone or in combination disclose the features of the claimed invention wherein, the contacts on the wires are secured in place during the entire assembly process by rings on the contacts and thus, during the cable's use. Independent claims 1 and 7 were amended to highlight these features. The amendments are

supported in the specification on page 3, lines 13-15, and page 4, lines 11-16. No new matter was added.

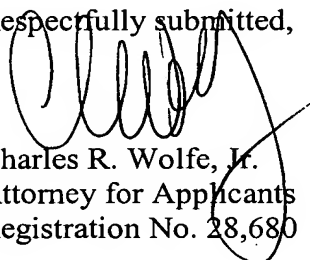
Therefore, the asserted rejections over the alleged combination on De La Cruz et al. with Saito et al. are overcome. There is no motivation for one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of the cited art in any way that would render the claimed invention obvious. Hence, independent claims 1 and 7, as amended, and their dependent claims thereon, are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment and the above remarks obviate the outstanding rejections and objections in this case, thereby placing the application in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited. If any fees under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are due in connection with this filing, please charge the fees to deposit account number 23-2185.

If an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is necessary that is not accounted for in the papers filed herewith, such an extension is requested and the extension fee should be charged to deposit account number 23-2185.

Respectfully submitted,



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